

It has been clear for the life of the refugee convention and protocol that though Australia ratified them and enshrined the right to seek asylum into the Migration Act the Australian parliament is incapable of living up to even the right to seek asylum if some asylum seekers simply cannot get passports and face the risk of death and have to "come by sea".

It is perfectly legal to come by sea yet the Australian parliament seem to be incapable of accepting that one fact.

Judi Moylan pointed out in February that only 0.0001% of the world's refugees ever come to Australia so why don't the Parliament of Australia write to the UN commissioner for refugees and withdraw from the refugee convention and give those refugees a break from our lazy, ignorant cruelty.

Of course we would be the laughing stock of the world but we already are as we waste \$772 million jailing innocent people and squandering hundreds of millions more on war ships to try and stop them even getting here.

40,000 refugees walked into Kenya in July 2011, Australia is sending \$60 million to feed the 400,000 already in Kenya's one camp, we now want to waste \$300 million over 4 years to trade and traffic human beings against their will in the name of "preventing" people smuggling.

Yet every person has the right to pay whomever they like and it is nothing at all to do with us.

We render up refugees like Mr Al Jenabi from countries where they have committed no crime, we jail them for that non-crime and then deny them the refuge we agree they are entitled to.

<http://www.sievx.com/articles/sentences/20040921THEQUEENandALHASSANABDOLAMIRALJENABI.html>

The parliament passed even nastier anti-"people smuggling" laws which today make it a crime for a family member to help another family member escape persecution, yet they are allowed to under international law and it is not a crime under Australian law to come and seek asylum.

The reality is that the parliament has become incapable of decent or sensible debate, incapable of decent laws and incapable of being remotely human when faced with the suffering of innocent human beings who have asked for our help.

We do not now and nor have we ever had to lock refugees up in remote locations in breach of all human rights conventions but to pander to the minority of racists in our midst the Australian parliament has become worthless and must be condemned.

Marilyn Shepherd